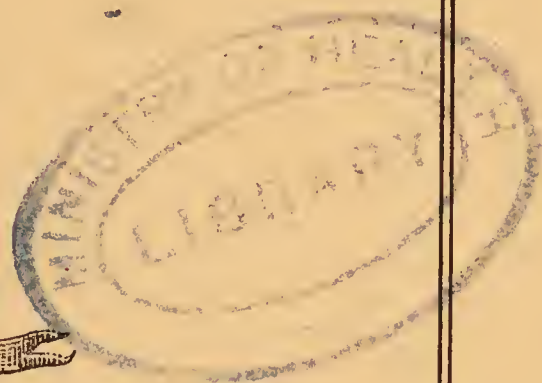
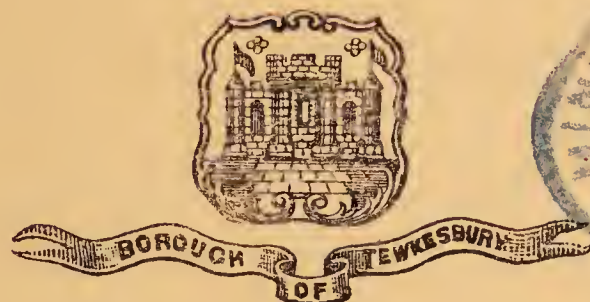


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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
for the Year 1948

BY

M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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*To the Mayor,
Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Tewkesbury.*

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Wyatt and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Hygiene Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Borough for the year 1948.

It includes the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and is compiled to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 ; Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, and it incorporates the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49, dated 17th January, 1949.

In accordance with para. 10 of the above Circular, the distribution of this Report is a wide one and includes :—

The Ministry of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Food.

The Local Government Boundary Commission.

The Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The health of the Borough has remained good for the year. The most satisfactory features are that the Infantile Mortality rate is only 1/3 that of the country as a whole and that for the fourth successive year we have had no deaths of mothers in child-birth. This reflects great credit on the medical and nursing services in the Borough. Immunisation against diphtheria shews continued progress and this is the second consecutive year in which there have been no cases. Tuberculosis also shows a satisfactory reduction. From the Public Health aspect, the greatest advances during the year have been in connection with housing and food hygiene, both of which are fully dealt with in the report. Other improvements are also reported and it is gratifying to be able to show the success which is attending the Council's efforts to improve the social conditions in the Borough.

I should like to thank the Mayor, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Councillors for their co-operation, and also the Corporation officials and staff for their assistance. In this latter connection, I should like to record the very great assistance given to me by your Sanitary Inspector in the compilation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) M. L. SUTCLIFFE,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY.

- M. L. SUTCLIFFE, T.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.P.M., Medical Officer of Health. Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Gloucester Rural and Newent Rural (Medical Officer of Health) Committee and Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the County of Gloucestershire.
- J. STIRLING, C.R.S.A. (Scotland), M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods and Inspector under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts.

Adoptive Legislation in force in the Borough.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 (Section 1) adopted 1st January, 1934.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 75)—Provision of Regulation Dustbins—adopted 21st March, 1938.

Bye-laws.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures — adopted 1st November, 1938.

Building Bye-laws—adopted 18th March, 1940.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the Borough, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 27.

Table 1 Infantile Births and Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Com- bin'd Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births ...	50	38	88	1	1	2	90
Still Births ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	1

Table 2 Deaths

Total Deaths	Male 21	Female 33	Total 54
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Deaths included in the above from—

Measles (all ages) 	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhœa, under (2 years of age) .....	.....	.....	—
Puerperal Sepsis ...	.....	.....	—
Other Maternal causes .....	.....	.....	—

Table 3 Birth and Death Rates

	Borough of Tewkesbury	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.1	17.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.2	0.42
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.1	} 10.8
Corrected „ „ „ „	not available	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births ...	11.1	34
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births ...	11.3	} not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	Nil	
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total births ...	Nil	1.02

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (in acres) 2,651 (including 96 acres of water).

Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1948), 4,856.

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1948) according to rate books, 1,569.

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1948), £28,366.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £117.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change since the detailed particulars submitted in my Annual Report for 1947.

The catering and allied trades remain the largest employers of labour in the Borough and the number employed is now probably approaching 300, owing to the opening of the Abbey Mill Cafe in May, 1948. This establishment has a seating capacity of 250.

The return of the "basic" petrol ration for private motorists in June, 1948, and the heavier motor coach traffic (owing to the increase in railway fares during the year) has undoubtedly had a beneficial effect on the catering trade in the town.

Other employers in the Borough are as follows :—

Messrs. Healing's Borough Flour Mills	...	90	persons
Messrs. Bathursts Ltd., Boat Builders	...	60	„
Messrs. H. A. Blackwell & Sons Ltd.			
Precision Engineers	...	45	„
Other small factories (employing less than			
20 persons)	... ..	175	„

During the year Messrs. Haddon Products Ltd. closed down, partly owing to the shortage of materials, and partly because of centralisation of production.

A large employer of labour outside the Borough is the C.O.V.D. of the R.A.O.C. at Ashchurch, where approximately 250 towns-people are employed.

Unemployment.

The general employment position is very good and much better than last year. The Manager of the Employment Exchange reports that there is every prospect of this position continuing and, with few exceptions, cases of unemployment are of short duration.

The following unemployment figures are of interest :—

Maximum No. unemployed in any month was 21 (April—19 males and 2 females).

Minimum No. unemployed in any month was 5 (October—all males). During the six holiday months there were no unemployed females.

In April, 1947, as a comparison, there were 72 unemployed on the register.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

Laboratory Facilities.

These were fully dealt with in my Annual Report for 1947. There has been no change and the arrangements in force are entirely satisfactory.

Hospitals.

This Council is only concerned with the hospital treatment of infectious disease cases.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, Hospitals came under the control of the South Western Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948, and from that date the cost of hospital treatment has been borne by a central fund and not by this Authority. Similarly, this Council is not now responsible for the payment of doctors' fees for infectious disease notifications.

The above changes affect the administrative side rather than the practical side and no changes have occurred in the facilities available for hospital treatment, which are excellent.

Ambulance Facilities.

The responsibility for these services devolved upon the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act. The vehicles which were maintained by the Tewkesbury and District Ambulance Association were also taken over at a sum to be agreed upon. The local station is now in Mill Street housed in the same building as the National Fire Service. Four full-time drivers are now employed, including the driver who was formerly employed by the voluntary service.

Infectious cases continue to be transported in a special vehicle maintained at the Gloucester Isolation Hospital at Over.

Nursing in the Home.

The local voluntary association continues to function for certain purposes connected with secretarial and nurses welfare matters, but all other services came under the County Health Committee as from 5th July, 1948. There are two nurses who undertake midwifery and general nursing in the Borough and the parishes of Ashchurch, Tredington and Twynning.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

1.—INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Since 5th July, 1948, the County Health Committee has been responsible for all supplies and staff. A local voluntary committee manages it and arranges for any social services. The clinic is held fortnightly in the Town Hall by courtesy of the Corporation.

2.—SCHOOL CLINIC.

There has been no change during the year. A County Council Health Visitor attends daily during term-time at the clinic attached to the Municipal Offices, from 9 to 9.30 a.m., and a doctor attends on Thursday mornings at 11.15.

3.—ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

No change from the arrangements as reported in my Annual Report for 1947.

4.—OPHTHALMIC AND EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

These are still held at the school clinic as required.

5.—TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

This clinic is held at the Hospital if required but most cases are seen by appointment at the Cheltenham Dispensary.

Mortuaries.

(a).—TOLSEY LANE.

There has been no change from the position reported in my Report for 1947, and facilities are adequate.

(b).—TEWKESBURY CEMETERY.

This improvised mortuary has never been used.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

MAIN SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied in bulk to the Corporation by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, whose purification works are in the Borough.

The process of purification of the water which is drawn from the River Severn consists of sedimentation with alum, rapid sand filtration and chloramination.

Supplies are ample and of excellent quality. Regular analyses, both chemical and bacteriological, are carried out and the results shown in Table 4 were supplied by the courtesy of the resident chemist (J. Henderson, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

Table 4

SUPPLY	Bacteriological Analyses		Chemical Analyses	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Raw river water	—	47	—	478
Treated river water	206	—	1181	—
Domestic	362	—	588	—

Main Water Supplies in the Borough.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49, Table 5 shows the number of houses and population served on 31st December, 1948.

Table 5

No of houses with main supply in house. (estimated)	Pop.	No. of Houses served by stand pipes (estimated)	Pop.
1212	3757	339	1039

It is satisfactory to note that, with the exception of 60 persons (see Table 6) the whole population has main water supplies.

New connections to the public mains during the year—140.

Extensions of mains during the year :—Nil, because all mains required for the Council's housing schemes were laid in 1947.

Well Supplies.

During the year 4 houses, previously dependent on well supplies, have been connected to the mains, and Table 6 shows the houses in the Borough still without main supplies.

Table 6

Address	Water Supply	No. of Houses	Population Served
20 Church Street ...	Well	1	1
106 Church Street ...	Business Premises only		
10 East Street ...	„	1	6
1 Trinity Walk ...	„	1	3
Perry Hill Gardens ...	„	1	3
Park Farm Cottages ...	„	2	8
Rayer's Hill Cottages ...	„	1	3
Tewkesbury Park ...	„	2	8
The Mythe Hook ...	River	3	8
Upper Lode Locks ...	„	5	18
Avon Lock Cottage ...	„	1	2
Total ...		18	60

At the latter six addresses no main supplies are at present available and even with some of the others the cost would be excessive and considerably above the £20 which is all the Council can insist on an owner expending in connecting up to main supplies. (Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936).

In my opinion, this section should be amended to a more reasonable figure so as to allow for the greatly increased cost of labour and materials since the Act was passed in 1936. I have put this question up to the Ministry of Health but they have informed me that no immediate legislation is likely.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Borough Surveyor reports :

Sewage Disposal.

During 1948 the design of the new sewage disposal works for the town has been completed and approved by the Council. The plans are now deposited with the Ministry of Health awaiting sanction to proceed to tender.

As envisaged previously, the final scheme will comprise modern works on the south side of Lower Lode Lane to which the whole of the sewage of the town will be pumped from a station on the site of the existing works fronting the Gloucester Road and Lower Lode Lane. A new pumping station will ultimately be constructed at Newtown and lengths of new sewers laid to accommodate housing and industrial development which, it is intended, will take place in the Newtown Area and on the Bredon Road at Mitton. If the formal approval of the Ministry of Health can be obtained without undue delay, it is hoped to commence construction during the first half of 1949. On my resignation, a firm of Consulting Engineers have been appointed who will be responsible for carrying out the construction works.

Public Cleansing.

No substantial change has been made in this service but it has been necessary to extend it to include a once weekly collection from the new houses now occupied at Priors Park. Tipping is proceeding satisfactorily at the Swilgate Field and it is hoped to construct the road and bridge over the Swilgate River above flood level as an accommodation road from the Priors Park Housing Estate into Barton Street. The amount of salvage being collected still remains satisfactory.

(Signed) R. F. CAPLE, Surveyor.

Refuse Receptacles.

There are still many dilapidated containers in the Borough but supplies of regulation dustbins are improving and, whenever possible, steps are taken to have defective containers renewed.

Latrine Accommodation.

With the raising of the limit for unlicensed building work, many owners were able to undertake some major repair, and a number of old hopper closets were replaced and provided with flushing cisterns. Otherwise there has been little change from conditions as reported last year.

Public Lavatories.

The inadequacy of the public lavatories in the town has long been recognised. Additional facilities have been required due to the fact that Tewkesbury is a centre for day-trippers and is also a long-distance 'bus stop.

During the year conditions have, however, been much improved; the new lavatories in Station Street were, after many inevitable delays, completed in November, and the new ones in Tolsey Lane are well on the way to completion. New lavatories are also proposed near the Crescent 'bus stop. As a result of these new facilities, it has been possible to close some of the others detailed in my report for 1946.

Present facilities in the Borough :—

VICTORIA GROUNDS :

Urinal and W.C. (male), 3 W.C.'s (female)

CAR PARK (Gloucester Road) :

Urinal and W.C. (male), 3 W.C.'s (female).

SMITH'S LANE :

Urinal. Owned by adjacent licensed premises and maintained by the Council.

STATION STREET :

Urinal and 2 W.C.'s and wash-basin (male). Five W.C.'s and wash-hand basin (female). The ladies entrance is provided with a penny-in-the-slot turnstile which, it is hoped, will be more remunerative than individual door locks.

TOLSEY LANE :

Urinal and 2 W.C.'s (male), 3 W.C.'s (female). Due to open early in 1949.

Whether charges should be made for such a necessity as the use of public lavatories is open to doubt. In my opinion they should be free and, being normally used by non-residents, grants should be made by the Exchequer for their provision and maintenance.

Public Baths.

There has been no change during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There has been no further provision of facilities during the year and use is still made of the Rivers Severn and Avon. There has been a certain amount of Public and Press discussion on this subject and it would appear likely that some better facilities may yet be planned in the near future.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no change from the conditions reported in my Annual Report for last year. The need for expediting the new sewage works is very urgent in order to minimise pollution of the River Severn.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

A summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department is tabulated below :—

Table 7

	No. of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remea'd after Notice	
		Info'm'l	Formal	In o'm'	Formal
Dwelling Houses ...	334	33	—	33	—
Cowsheds & Dairies	28	4	—	4	—
Factories, etc. ...	57	3	—	2	—
Bakehouses ...	2	—	—	—	—
Food Premises ...	226	—	—	12	—
Slaughterhouses ...	—	None	in use	since	1939
Water Supplies ...	70	2	—	2	—
Drainage and Sewerage...	53	3	—	3	—
Infectious Disease ..	27	Disin-	fection	carried	out
				in all	cases
Miscellaneous	1072	35	—	35	—
Total	1867	92	—	91	—

The total number of inspections is slightly down on last year for two reasons. Firstly, your Sanitary Inspector was on sick leave for two months and, secondly, he spent a considerable amount of time in organising the food hygiene course on which he reports on pages 22 and 23.

Shops Acts, 1912-45.

The Council employ a part-time Inspector for the administration of these Acts with regard to closing hours. He reports that no serious infringements have taken place and legal action was not necessary.

Offensive Trades.

Two Rag and Bone Dealers operate in the Back of Avon and St. Mary's Lane. No complaints have been received.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928.

Rag flock is not manufactured, used or sold in any premises in the Borough.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts, 1928-1936.

These Acts, for which the Sanitary Inspector is responsible, were administered adequately during the year. Thirteen licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and two for carbide.

Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, 1877-1925.

No action has been necessary during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints have been made of any smoke nuisance in the Borough and no excessive smoke emission has been noted during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, the last one having been closed in 1939.

Disinfestation. (Bed Bugs, Fleas, Cockroaches, etc.)

During the year a total of 33 private dwelling houses were treated. Most of these were carried out prior to the re-housing of tenants in Council Houses.

Treatment in all cases was by means of D.D.T. sprays or powders and satisfactory results were obtained.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The County Pests Department carries out the work on behalf of the Borough Council.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

SURFACE INFESTATIONS : only 16 surface infestations were treated and the County Pests Officer considers this low figure to be due to the sustained treatment carried out in recent years.

SEWER TREATMENTS : the sewers received maintenance treatments for rats in May and November, 1948, and the presence of rats in the system was observed on each occasion.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority			
(i)	Temporary Prefabricated	...	Nil
(ii)	Permanent Traditional	...	38
(iii)	Permanent Non-Traditional	...	100
(b) By other Local Authorities			
(c)	By Private Enterprise...	...	4
TOTAL			142

That 142 new houses were erected during the year is exceedingly good and it has increased the total number of houses in the Borough by 10%. It is a figure of which the Corporation may well feel proud, and I do not think that any other housing authority in England and Wales has done as well.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Aneurin Bevan) has said that the criterion of housing progress is the number of houses in relation to the population. In order, therefore, to study our housing progress, we must take into consideration the Registrar General's estimate of the population and the number of available houses, while we can also compare our figures with those for England and Wales.

From the first two figures we get the following results :—

Year	Estimated Population	No. of Houses on Rate Books	No. of Occupants per 100 Houses
1945	4401	1375	320
1946	4540	1386	327
1947	4614	1433	322
1948	4856	1569	309

These figures show very clearly the great improvement which has taken place in our housing position since 1946.

In comparing the Borough with England and Wales as regards the number of houses erected since the war we get the following figures :—

In England and Wales (end of War to 31st December, 1948) one house (permanent or temporary) has been built for about every 85 of the population, whereas in this Borough for the same period 178 houses have been built, or one house for every 27 of the population. This is an outstandingly good figure and means that, relative to population, we have erected three times as many houses as the average of housing authorities in England and Wales.

In connection with the 100 Hawkesley Aluminium Bungalows erected in 1948, great credit goes to the Council for their foresight in laying out their Prior's Park Estate and providing roads and services in advance of estimated immediate needs.

If sites for these 100 houses had not been immediately available, it is practically certain that they would not have been offered to the Council by the Ministry of Health. In the letting of these bungalows, the Ministry made it a condition that a certain percentage should be let to workers in key industries and organisations in the neighbourhood, and the following have been sponsored by the Ministries concerned :—

R.A.O.C. Depot, Ashchurch ; Dowty Equipment Ltd., Ashchurch ; Messrs. Bathursts Ltd. ; Messrs. H. A. Blackwell & Son ; Government and local services (*e.g.*, Ministry of National Insurance).

Although a large number of tenants came from outside of the District, a considerable number of local families satisfied the Ministry conditions. The newcomers are employed locally and, as residents, are of material benefit to the trade of the town.

Housing Programme for 1949.

1. Completion of 4 four-bedroom houses and 6 three-bedroom houses at Prior's Park.
2. Erection of 24 houses. This is the number at present sanctioned by the Ministry. It is not a large figure, but, in view of the excellent allocation in 1948, it will not be surprising if the Ministry refuses to increase it, unless, of course, housing difficulties in the country as a whole change for the better.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :

(a)	(i)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	284
	(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	618
(b)	(i)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, etc.	nil
	(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	nil
(c)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(d)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	280

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of formal Notices.

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	33
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by local authority in default of owners ...	nil
(c) Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138, and the Water Act, 1945, Section 30 :—	
(i) Number of houses in which a main water supply was provided after the service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	4
(b) by local authority in default of Owners ...	nil
(d) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

It is impossible to give an accurate figure as to the amount of actual overcrowding without an up-to-date survey. In 1945 the Ministry of Health instructed Rural District Councils to carry out surveys of housing conditions and overcrowding, and it is envisaged that a similar survey will shortly be required of Urban Authorities. There is little doubt that there is considerable overcrowding in the town but, thanks to the large number of houses erected during the year, big steps have been taken to reduce this danger to health and, in 1948, about 30 overcrowded families have been re-housed.

5. National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

This section deals with the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection. No action was taken by the Council in 1948.

The Housing Manager reports as follows :—

Re-Housing Progress.

The number of families re-housed during the year was 144, of which 3 have been re-housed in requisitioned property, and 141 in new houses or houses become vacant.

In addition, 20 transfers of tenancy have been made to secure the best use of accommodation available.

Of those re-housed :—

30 families have been moved from unfit houses. (In at least half of these cases there was also overcrowding). Of the unfit houses one large cottage was demolished as the site was required for the aluminium bungalows, one formed part of a confirmed clearance area and will not be re-let, and the other will not be used for dwelling purposes.

35 families had previously been living with relatives.

33 families had previously been living in rooms.

13 families were living in overcrowded conditions (these are in addition to those in unfit houses).

25 families were moved from temporary accommodation.

11 families were of agricultural workers.

It is satisfactory to note that 6 families in which there are cases of tuberculosis have been re-housed.

Mythe Camp.

Eight families have been re-housed from the Mythe Hutted Camp and the vacated huts demolished.

Three families have left of their own accord, and only 10 huts remain in occupation.

Requisitioned and Corporate Property.

There has been some small alteration on the lists shown in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer for 1947. No. 6, St. Mary's Lane, has been handed back to the owner ; there are now only ten huts at the Mythe Camp, and No. 4, Wall's Court has been closed.

The total number of tenancies managed by the Housing Dept. at 31st December, 1948, was 442 houses and 5 lock-up shops.

(Miss) K. G. JOHN,
Housing Manager.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies.

Almost all the non-heat-treated milk retailed in the Borough is produced within the town boundaries and only one Supplementary Licence is in force for an outside producer to sell milk under the special designation "Accredited".

There are four producer/retailers (three non-designated and one accredited) and one retailer of Accredited Milk in addition to the holder of the Supplementary Licence. There is also a milk pasteurisation company which pasteurises and retails by far the greater part of the town's milk supply in addition to acting as wholesaler for accommodation milk to other retailers.

Milk Producers.

Table 9 shows the number of producers in the Borough classified according to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936/46.

Table 9

Type of Milk Produced	1947	1948
Non-Designated Milk	7	7
Accredited Milk	2	2
Tuberculin-Tested Milk		
(a) from attested herds ...	—	—
(b) from non-attested herds ...	1	1
Pasteurised Milk	1	1
Total	11	11

Pasteurised Milk.

After many delays the privately-owned Pasteurising Depot in the Borough has been enlarged and is being fitted with new plant of the High-Temperature-Short-Time Type.

It is expected to complete the work and change over from the old "Holder" Plant in May, 1949. The Borough will be well served with this improvement which, although modified considerably from the original scheme, is likely to give very satisfactory service.

The premises were well kept during the year and any unsatisfactory samples were mainly due to upset caused by the building operations. Faults were soon tracked down and immediate improvement resulted.

Most of the samples were taken during the year by the County Council, which, as Food and Drugs Authority has an interest imposed under the Defence Regulation 55G. This interest (like that of this Council by virtue of it being the Licensing Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations) will cease when the new proposed legislation comes into force.

Milk Sampling.

Table 10 shows the results of the various samples taken during the year :—

Table 10

Grade of Milk	Samples taken by	Bacteriological Analyses		Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Past- eurised	This Dept.	7	—	7	—	3	4
Past- eurised	County Council	9	11	19	1	19	1
School Milk	„	10	8	12	6	—	—
Accre- dited	This Dept.	5	5	5	5	—	—
T.T. Milk	„	1	—	1	—	—	—
Non-Des- ignated	„	4	—	4	—	—	—
Total	...	36	24	48	12	22	5

New Legislation in connection with the Production and Distribution of Milk.

THE FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACT, 1944, is expected to come into operation in 1949. Briefly, it transfers from County and County District Councils their powers regarding milk production to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) BILL. This proposes that no application for a licence to sell milk as “T.T.” will be considered after 30th September, 1950, unless the herd is attested and that existing T.T. licences be terminated on 30th September, 1952, unless the herd has by then become attested. The designation “Accredited” will become obsolete.

Ultimately, from 1st October, 1954, the only raw milk that will be allowed to be sold in England and Wales will be that from T.T. attested herds. This will bring the standard of raw milk permitted for human consumption up to the standard required in milk used for the feeding of calves in attested herds. If this standard is considered necessary in the rearing of calves, it must surely be regarded as equally necessary in the rearing of children.

In addition to raw T.T. attested milk, the only other liquid milk which may be sold to the public is milk which has been pasteurised, and this latter will, of course, form the great bulk of milk consumed for many years to come.

This legislation will undoubtedly encourage producer/retailers to go in for T.T. attested herds, as otherwise their milk will have to be pasteurised, either by themselves or at a central depot, before it can be retailed. It may be a hardship to some producers, but one must not forget the suffering incurred by many consumers in the past caused by bad milk supplies.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

All the registered slaughter houses in the Borough were closed in 1939 and centralised slaughtering is carried out under strict supervision in the Cheltenham Abattoir.

Slaughtering of Home-fattened Pigs.

When a permit is issued by the Food Office for the slaughter of a pig for home consumption, the owner reports the time of slaughter to this Department in order that the Sanitary Inspector may have the opportunity to inspect the carcase for disease.

Table 11 is included in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 3/49.

Table 11 Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Pigs
No. killed 	49
No. inspected 	38
Diseases excl. Tb.	
(a) Whole carcase condemned 	—
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned 	—
(c) % No. inspected affected with disease (other than Tb.) 	—
Tuberculosis.	
(a) Whole carcase condemned 	—
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned 	—
(c) % No. inspected affected with tuberculosis 	—

This shows that even in a small Urban area quite a number of pigs can be home-reared, and it is very satisfactory to note that in no case was any disease found.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Transport and handling of Meat.

As previously reported, a modern specialised lorry is in use in the Borough and is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector as often as possible during deliveries.

No complaints were received during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This Department is notified when hotels, shops, etc., or individuals suspect that articles of food are unfit for human consumption.

The following table shows the articles of food condemned during the year :—

Table 12

Article			Non Preserved	Preserved (tinned)
Meat	...	...	138 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	1 lbs.
Poultry & Game	...	...	50 „	—
Bacon	...	...	50 „	—
Sausage	...	...	6 „	—
Fish	...	...	183 „	—
Shell-fish	...	...	— „	16 „
Flour & Cereals	...	...	562 „	—
Fruit	...	...	50 „	51 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Vegetables	...	...	— „	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
Milk	...	...	— „	20 „
Eggs	...	...	— „	—
Miscellaneous Foods	...	...	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	152 „
Total	...	...	1066 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	259 lbs.

The rather large amount of cereals was accounted for while rationing of bread and flour was still in force. In one case a newspaper happened to get into the dough mixer in a bakery by some unexplained method and rendered the dough unusable. In the other case there was a mixture made up ready for baking into jam-roll at a large cooking depot. Flour moth larvae were observed in the dough and the manager took immediate action. Many other rationed foods were contained in the mixture but the suppliers accepted full responsibility for all the loss.

Ice Cream.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

The innovation and organisation of the hygiene course of instruction for food handlers (reported on pages 20—22) coupled with the illness of the Sanitary Inspector, prevented any great amount of work being carried out under these regulations. However, the instructional course brought home vividly to the ice cream trader

the danger of careless handling and, from observations and the results of the few samples taken, a high standard of cleanliness was maintained, except in one case. This exception will receive particular attention during the next season.

Adulteration.

Sampling of Foods, etc., is undertaken by the County Sampling Officer, and the following information has been given by Police Superintendent Large as to the operation of the Act during 1948 :—

Table 13

Food or drug		No of <i>Formal</i>	Samples <i>Informal</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Not Genuine</i>	Remarks
New Milk	...	17	—	17	—	
Vinegar	...	—	1	1	—	
Coffee Extract	...	—	1	1	—	
Flour	...	—	2	2	—	
Milk of Magnesia	...	—	2	2	—	
Aspirins	...	—	2	2	—	
Beer	...	1	—	1	—	
Cider	...	1	—	1	—	
Ice Cream	...	1	—	1	—	
Bronchial Tablets	...	—	1	1	—	
Condensed Milk	...	—	1	1	—	

It is satisfactory to note that for the second year in succession all samples examined were genuine.

Bakehouses.

There are seven bakehouses in the Borough, but one of them has been out of commission for some time due to staff difficulties. Advantage is being taken of the break to have it thoroughly overhauled and cleansed. Satisfactory conditions were noted in all the others.

Catering and Licensed Trades.

Great improvement was shown in the majority of premises occupied by these trades. This was particularly so in the case of licensed premises where sinks and hot water have been provided and interior decoration carried out in all but two cases. These latter are in hand, but there has been delay in the granting of building licences.

All but four of the catering premises, with which the Borough abounds, have been provided with fairly satisfactory standards of sanitary accommodation, both for staff and for the public frequenting the premises. The other four have plans in hand and work should be completed before the tourist season.

In all cases we have been fortunate to secure wash-basins for the use of the public.

HYGIENE EDUCATION.

Report by the Sanitary Inspector.

In response to a desire expressed by some members of the catering and food distributive trades, a meeting was arranged by this Department in April, 1948. Invitations to attend were extended to every member of these trades including hoteliers, restaurateurs, licensed victuallers, dairymen, butchers, fish friers, grocers, etc. The local Chamber of Trade and the main public utility undertakings were represented. The purpose of the Meeting was to organise a course of instructional classes for all food handlers.

The Meeting was addressed by His Worship the Mayor and the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade, both of whom identified themselves closely with the project. The Medical Officer of Health spoke of the need for such instruction and invited the co-operation of the traders while I outlined the suggested scheme.

The idea was received enthusiastically and a representative committee was formed to assist and advise me.

Through the generosity of two caterers, excellent classrooms were made available for the three weeks, over which the course extended. Additional attraction and hospitality in the shape of tea and biscuits during each session was gladly accepted. This break for tea during the class helped greatly to introduce a more informal note and made those attending more at ease, for some undoubtedly felt a little strange to find themselves once more "at school".

The original meeting was supported by over 90% of the trades, while the actual course was attended by representatives of some 45%—numbering in all 95 persons, or roughly 1/3 of the food handlers in the Borough. This, I consider, is very satisfactory for a beginning, especially when one considers that the course took place during May and encroached upon the tourist season. Moreover, it was impossible to find days and times suitable to all trades and to those taking part in the talks as well.

Among the speakers were Mr. Rowland Ellis, F.R.I.C., F.C.S. (County and Public Analyst) ; Dr. M. L. Sutcliffe (Medical Officer of Health) ; Mr. G. L. Dean (County Pests Officer) ; Miss Molly Hampson (Home Service Adviser—by permission of the General Manager of the Cheltenham and District Gas Company) ; Miss Zoe Fowler, B.Sc. (by permission of Messrs. Deosan Ltd.) and myself.

The classes were divided into two parts, with morning and afternoon sections, and each was about two hours duration.

Extensive use was made of a sound cine-projector (kindly loaned by the County Health Committee) and I was very grateful to the

operator, Mr. Brain, for the excellent service rendered. Films were hired or loaned from the Army Kinema Corporation and the Central Film Library.

Visual aids and practical demonstrations were used wherever possible, and the rooms were suitably decorated for the occasions with posters, leaflets, etc. Many of these posters were purchased through the Central Council for Health Education, and some were supplied by firms dealing in public health products. Others were made by this Department.

The subjects covered during the course are included under the following headings :—

1. Germs—their life and habits.
2. Food-borne diseases, personal health and hygiene.
3. Restaurant practices which spread disease.
4. Hygiene of cooking, utensils, dress, etc.
5. Rats and Mice—their prevention and extermination.
6. Insects—control and destruction.
7. Use of detergents in the food industries.
8. Buying, preparing, storing, refrigeration of food.

Quizzes and question periods featured large, and considerable enthusiasm was shown. Pamphlets with health and hygiene hints were available for taking away, while suitable posters were distributed later to managements for display on the premises.

Each person who attended two or more sessions received a certificate to that effect, with hints to bear in mind printed on the reverse side. For each establishment with an attendance of 70% or more of management and staff a large display certificate was issued in attractive form and headed by a red star. It is hoped to popularise these “Red Star” premises, and the aim is to have every place where food is handled a “Red Star” one. This, however, will not be sufficient. Continued inspections will be necessary to ensure that the high ideal of the majority is not lowered by the few and so abuse the “Red Star”.

We hope to make these courses annual or bi-annual events. Health shows are also in the scheme, with the accent on food handling and equipment for the small man. It was with regret that any idea of a show for 1948 had to be abandoned owing to illness. We look forward to the future with confidence, however, that the enterprise shown by the Tewkesbury Food Traders will not go unrewarded by the discerning housewife or the hygiene-conscious tourist.

JAMES STIRLING,
Sanitary Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Table 14

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. of Premises in Registr	No. of Inspect'ns	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecut'd
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	15	31	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 applies:				
(a) Subject to the Local Auth- orities (Transfer of Enforce- ment) Order, 1938 ...	33	20	1	—
(b) Others ...	7	2	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excl. outworkers)	5	4	—	—
Total...	60	57	2	—

Table 15

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of Defects Found	No. of Defects Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to by H.M.I. H.M.I.		No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness Sec. 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding Sec. 2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. Sec. 3	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation Sec. 4	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drain. of floors Sec 6	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences } } insufficient } defective ... } not separate } for sexes Sec. 7	2	1	—	2	—
	1	1	—	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—	—
(not including Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	3	2	3	—	—

Table 16. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August List as required	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Cases of work in Unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (Making)	3	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table 26 shows the incidence of notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year according to age groups.

Diphtheria and Immunisation.

Immunisation figures are shown in Tables 18 to 22. It is very satisfactory to note that no cases of diphtheria occurred either in 1947 or 1948, and this obviously shows the value of immunisation. The number of children immunised under the age of five shows a satisfactory increase.

Smallpox and Typhoid.

No contacts were notified during the year.

Infantile Paralysis.

One case was notified during the year but the patient made a good recovery.

Infectious Diseases in the Modern and Primary Schools

Table 17

School	Average No. on Register	Sc. F.	Wh. C.	Ch. Pox	Mumps	Measles	Infantile Paralysis
Primary Council	161	6	4	—	1	—	1
Modern Council	241	2	—	—	—	—	—
Infants C. of E.	186	2	14	1	6	1	—
Mixed C. of E.	125	2	—	—	—	1	—

Following the recommendations of the Joint Memorandum issued by the Ministries of Health and Education, it was not considered necessary to close any schools because of Infectious Disease.

Disinfection of Premises following Infectious Disease.

The policy of the Council, inaugurated in March, 1947, to issue free soap for cleansing purposes in cases of major infectious disease has been continued during the year and is much appreciated. Premises are also sprayed with disinfectant as a routine measure.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Records are kept by this Department of all children in the Borough who have been immunised and the returns shown in Tables 18 to 20 are submitted to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer of Health.

Table 18 Child Population immunised during 1948

No of children who completed full course immunisation, 1948	Age at the date of final injection		Total under 15
	0-5 years	5-14 years	
During $\frac{1}{2}$ yr. ending 30.6.48	35	11	46
„ „ 31.12.48	30	10	40
Total	65	21	86

Table 19 Child Population receiving a maintenance dose during 1948 (i.e. a reinforcing dose a few years after the Primary immunisation).

During half-year ending 30.6.48 ...	2
During half-year ending 31.12.48	95
TOTAL for 1948	97

Table 20 Immunisation in relation to Child Population

Children aged 0-14 years immunised up to 31st December, 1948

Age 31.12.48 i.e. born in the year	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	Total
	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1939-43	1934-38	un. 15
No. Immunised	1	41	43	24	41	300	243	693
Est. Mid-year pop. 48	429					640		1069
Percentage Im'nised	35%					84.84%		% 64.83

Table 21 Diphtheria notifications and deaths in relation to Immunisation (Children under 15 years only)

Notifications		Deaths	
Cases Notified	Cases Immunised	Immunised	Not Immunised
—	—	—	—

Table 22. Relation of Immunisation to the severity of Diphtheria cases

Civilian cases only (All ages)	No. of Cases	Severity of disease					
		V. mild	Mild	Mod.	Severe	V. Sev.	Died
(a) Immunised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Not Immunised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 23. Tuberculosis—New cases and deaths in 1948

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1—	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
1+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5+	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25+	2	1	...	...	...	1	..	...
35+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45+	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
55+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65+	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Age not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4	1	...	1	...	1	...	...

Table 24. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register as at 31st December for the last 3 years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	per 1000 population
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
1946	15	12	2	7	36	7.9
1947	14	14	2	6	36	7.8
1948	15	10	2	6	33	6.8

Table 25—New Cases and Deaths in the last 3 years.

Year	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1946	2	2	...	1	5	1	...	...	...
1947	3	3	...	...	6	3	1	..	...
1948	4	1	...	1	6	...	1	...	...

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 172).

No action was necessary under the above Regualtions and Act.

Re-housing of Tuberculous Cases.

Bad housing conditions are reported to the Housing Committee and it is satisfactory to note that 6 cases have been re-housed during the year. This not only gives the patient a better chance of recovery, but also reduces the risk of his infecting other members of the family.

Table 27

Notifiable Infectious Diseases in 1948 by age groups

[illegible]

Table 27. Causes of Death 1948.

(Classified according to the Registrar General's Short List of Causes)

Causes of Death			Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system...	...	—	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	—	—
9	Influenza	...	—	—
10	Measles	...	—	—
11	Ac: polio-myel: & polio-enceph.	...	—	—
12	Ac: inf. enceph:	...	—	—
13	Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph: (M)	...	1	—
	uterus (F)	...	—	2
14	Cancer of stomach & Duodenum	...	—	—
15	Cancer of breast	...	—	—
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	1	4
17	Diabetes	...	—	—
18	Inter-cranial vascular lesions	...	4	5
19	Heart Disease	...	9	14
20	Other diseases of circ. system	...	—	—
21	Bronchitis	...	—	—
22	Pneumonia	...	—	—
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	—	—
25	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	1	—
27	Other digestive disorders...	...	—	1
28	Nephritis	...	—	1
29	Puer: & post-abortion: sepsis.	...	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	—	—
31	Premature Birth	...	—	—
32	Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis:	...	—	1
33	Suicide	...	—	—
34	Road traffic accident	...	—	—
35	Other violent causes	...	1	1
36	All other causes	...	3	2
Total Deaths			21	33

